

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

*House Meets at 9:00 a.m. for Morning Hour
and 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 1316—Federal Beneficiary Clarification Act
**H.J.Res. 79—Disapproving Most Favored Nation Treatment for the Products
of the People’s Republic of China**
H.R. 1119—FY 1998 Defense Authorization Act



H.R. 1316—Federal Beneficiary Act Clarification

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 1316 under the “corrections day” procedure as its first order of business today. It is debatable for one hour, may only be amended by the chairman of the committee of jurisdiction, and requires a three-fifths majority vote for passage. House rules provide for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 1316 directs the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to obey certain domestic relations orders when paying the proceeds of life insurance policies under the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance program (FEGLI) and permits the courts to assign such policies to the individuals specified in these orders. CBO estimates that enactment will have no effect on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Collins and was reported by the Government Reform & Oversight Committee by voice vote.

Views (on the overall bill)

Republican Leadership: Supports

Chairman Burton: Supports

Clinton Administration: No Position Available

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #18, June 20, 1997.



H.J. Res. 79—Disapproval of Most-Favored Nation Treatment for the People’s Republic of China

Floor Situation: The House is scheduled to consider H.J. Res. 79 after it completes consideration of H.R. 1316. Yesterday, the House agreed to a unanimous consent request that provides for three and a half hours of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Ways & Means Committee. It permits the House to consider the resolution under an expedited process which does not allow for amendments or a motion to recommit and waives all points of order against the resolution.

Summary: H.J. Res. 79 rejects and overrules President Clinton’s decision to extend most favored nation (MFN) treatment to the People’s Republic of China for another year. On May 29, 1997, the president announced that he planned to renew MFN trading status for China. The president’s action automatically extends China’s MFN status for one year, beginning July 3, unless Congress passes a joint resolution disapproving the extension. CBO estimates that enactment will result in increased revenues of \$106 million in FY 1997 and \$320 million in FY 1998. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Solomon and the Ways & Means Committee ordered H.J. Res. 79 reported adversely (i.e., disapproved, but still moved to the House floor) by a vote of 34-5 on June 18, 1997

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #18, June 23, 1997.



H.R. 1119—FY 1998 Defense Authorization Act

Floor Situation: The House will complete consideration of H.R. 1119 after it completes deliberations on H.J.Res. 79. Yesterday, the House continued considering amendments to the bill under a modified closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against the bill and its consideration. The rule makes in order only those amendments listed below, to be debated in the order listed and for the amount of time specified. The rule provides an extra 60 minutes of general debate regarding U.S. troops in Bosnia, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the National Security Committee. It allows the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration and reduce the voting time to five minutes for a postponed vote, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 1119 authorizes \$268.2 billion in new budget authority and \$266 billion in outlays for the Department of Defense (DOD). The bill reflects spending levels equal to those contained in the balanced budget agreement (H.Con.Res. 84). This amount represents a budget authority increase of approximately \$2.6 billion over the president’s request and approximately \$2.2 billion over last year’s authorization levels. Under the balanced budget agreement, H.R. 1119 projects \$6.6 billion more in outlays for FY 1998 than the administration had projected and \$3 billion more than Congress had projected last year.

Overall, the bill authorizes \$69.5 billion (\$66 million more than the president’s request) for military personnel, \$95.1 billion (\$589 million less than the president’s request) for operations and mainte-

nance and working capital funds, \$46.3 billion (\$3.7 million more than the president's request) for weapons procurement, \$37.3 billion (\$1.3 billion more than the president's request) for research and development, \$9.1 billion (\$750 million more than the president's request) for military construction and family housing, and \$11 billion (\$2.6 billion less than the president's request) for the defense related programs of the Department of Energy. CBO estimates that enactment will result in outlays of \$267 billion in FY 1998, \$91.2 billion in FY 1999, \$36 billion in FY 2000, \$15.5 billion in FY 2001, and \$6.7 billion in FY 2002. The bill affects direct spending, so pay-as-you-go procedures do apply. The bill was introduced by Mr. Spence and Mr. Dellums and was reported by the National Security Committee by a vote of 51-3 on June 11, 1997.

Views (on the overall bill):

Republican Leadership: Supports

Chairman Spence: Supports

Clinton Administration: No Position Available

Amendments: After floor action yesterday, only two amendments remain to be considered. Before the amendments are debated, the rule allows an additional hour of general debate on the subject of U.S. troops in Bosnia.

Mr. Buyer and Mr. Skelton will offer an amendment, debatable for 20 minutes, to compel the administration to honor its commitment to withdraw ground elements of the U.S. Armed Forces in the Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Under the amendment, no DOD appropriated funds may be obligated towards the deployment of U.S. troops after June 30, 1998, barring any special presidential request or congressional action. Since December 1996, almost 20,000 U.S. military personnel have participated in the United Nation's peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. Incremental costs for the U.S., according to DOD estimates, have exceeded \$6.5 billion. Although U.S. troops have been part of a multinational force, critics argue that the U.S. has born a disproportionate share of the financial costs. President Clinton recently proposed June 30, 1998, as the date for ending the current mission. This amendment essentially codifies the president's proposal. *Staff Contact: Jim Lariviere (Buyer), x5-5037; Bill Natter (Skelton), x5-2876*

Mr. Hilleary may offer a substitute amendment to the Buyer amendment, debatable for 20 minutes, to prohibit DOD funds from being allocated or expended for ground deployment of U.S. troops in Bosnia after December 31, 1997. The amendment also prohibits DOD funds from being used to conduct law enforcement or other activities by U.S. troops that would have the effect of jeopardizing the primary mission or increasing the risk of the safety of the troops. The president may request that the appropriation limitations be lifted and the deployment extended until June 30, 1998, which Congress must approve through a joint resolution. The amendment additionally requires a report from the administration by October 31, 1997, which addresses the role of the U.S. in preparing its European allies to assume control over the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia, as well as provide an update on the goals of the Stabilization Force, possible risks to the safety of U.S. troops, and the planned U.S. exit strategy. *Staff Contact: Bob Irvin, x5-6831*

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #17, Pt. II, June 16, 1997.

